



2008 | 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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CEO REPORT

The California Leafy Green Products Handler Marketing Agreement (LGMA) was established in the spring of 2007 and represents an unprecedented commitment by industry to protect public health. Two years since its inception, the LGMA has now become a model food safety program for farmers of fruits and vegetables in other states and there is also a national program being considered by the United States Department of Agriculture. This report summarizes the activities, accomplishments and findings of the LGMA during its second year of operation, covering the period of April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009.



In the wake of the two recent Salmonella outbreaks associated with peanuts and Mexican jalapeño peppers, questions are once again being asked about how government and industry can best protect public health and provide food safety assurances to consumers.

The LGMA, which operates with oversight from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), is a mechanism for verifying that farmers follow food safety practices for lettuce, spinach and other leafy greens. Farmers, shippers and processors have demonstrated their willingness to follow a set of food safety practices by signing onto the LGMA. Once a company joins the LGMA, it becomes mandatory for that member company to sell and ship product only from farmers who comply with the LGMA accepted food safety practices.

At the heart of the LGMA is the mandatory government audit program that certifies member companies are implementing food safety practices developed by university and industry scientists, food safety experts, farmers, shippers and processors. These food safety practices were also reviewed by state and federal government health agencies. (The food safety practices are posted on the LGMA website: www.lgma.ca.gov). This set of food safety practices has been accepted by the LGMA, and all LGMA member companies are subject to mandatory government audits on a regular, but random basis to ensure that the LGMA accepted food safety practices are being implemented. The audits are conducted by California Department of Food and Agriculture inspectors who received their training and certification from the United States Department of Agriculture.

In 2008 the LGMA audit program was further strengthened by a new requirement for unannounced audits. Now, all LGMA members are subject to at least one unannounced audit, on top of the random audits already required.

The LGMA is made up of companies (usually referred to as handlers) that ship and sell lettuce, spinach and other leafy greens products. These companies provide leafy greens products – both raw and processed – to the world's grocery stores, restaurants and institutions. Working with hundreds of farmers, the signatory member companies of the LGMA ship and sell approximately 99% of the California leafy greens products that ultimately reach consumers. During the 2008/09 fiscal year, over 110 companies were members of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement.

E. Scott Horsfall

YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2008/09 fiscal year of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement marks its second year of operation.

Some of the major accomplishments of the past year were:

Mandatory government audits of leafy greens fields increased in quantity and rigor.

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The flexible nature of the LGMA's food safety practices was clearly demonstrated with the addition of an important new "metric" designed to prevent pathogens from entering leafy greens fields.

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A computerized database system was created to capture and maintain important information collected from each audit of leafy greens fields.

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was formally recognized for his role in establishing the LGMA.

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Research results show that consumers have confidence in the LGMA program.

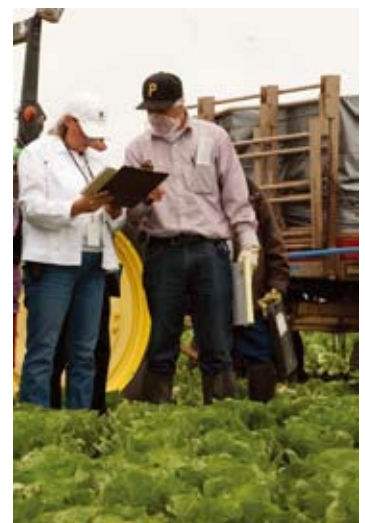
Below is a more thorough description of the major accomplishments of the LGMA in 2008/09. The remainder of the report includes a detailed summary of the audit results and the citations issued through the LGMA's government audit program along with a financial report. The LGMA operates with oversight from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. All actions of the LGMA and its Board must be approved by the Secretary of CDFA.

Audits Increased in Quantity and Rigor

At the heart of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement is the mandatory government audit program that certifies member companies are implementing food safety practices. During the 2008/09 fiscal year many more audits were conducted when compared to the previous year. This occurred because the LGMA was officially established in April of 2007, but audits were not conducted until July of that year. Therefore, this past year marked the first time an entire 12-month season of leafy greens production was audited by trained government inspectors. As a result, 641 total audits were conducted in 2008/09, compared to 424 during the last fiscal year.

As might be expected, more citations were issued this year compared to last year. This was not just because there was a longer time period involved, but also because during the first year of LGMA operations, audits involved a great deal of documentation review. This past year, auditors spent much more time auditing practices in the field in addition to verifying documentation.

It should be noted that LGMA auditors are highly trained and experienced inspectors. They are employees of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, but are certified and trained through the USDA under the auspices of the National Good Agricultural Practices program. Each inspector is required to be a licensed commodity grader who has been through International Standards Organization (ISO) training on auditing principles. The inspectors also receive extensive training specific to the LGMA auditing program. Before being allowed to conduct a solo audit, each inspector must participate as an assistant in numerous audits and they >



YEAR IN REVIEW (CONTINUED)

must serve as the lead inspector for at least two audits while being “shadowed” and graded by a CDFA inspection supervisor. In addition, once they become licensed, auditors are required to have 80 hours of continuing education each year.

The end result of all this training is that a team of very well-qualified and experienced inspectors was conducting audits of leafy greens farming operations in 2008/09. These inspectors know what to look for and that is evident in the fact that a total of 1,068 citations were issued during the year -- nearly twice the number issued last year. A complete breakdown of information for all citations issued is provided on pages 6 through 11 of this report.

The data shows there was a significant increase in the number of “Minor Deviations” and “Minor Infractions” issued. This is largely due to the emphasis on field audits and the longer auditing period, but it is also a reflection of the thoroughness of the audit process. It should be noted that these two citation classes are not considered to increase the risk of a food borne illness and, like all other citations issued through the LGMA, require immediate corrective action.

Conversely, the LGMA is pleased to report the citation data shows a significant reduction from last year in the number of “Flagrant Violations” and “Major Deviations,” which are the two most serious citation classes issued through the LGMA. This indicates the industry is taking the food safety practices seriously and that members are working hard to ensure compliance.

It is also very important to note that this year the USDA required all LGMA members to submit to what is called an “unannounced” audit. This simply means that in addition to the regular and random audits conducted for each LGMA handler-member throughout the season, at least one of these is performed without any prior notification. This was a very important and significant change to the LGMA audit program and provides an additional layer of assurance that LGMA handler-members are consistently following LGMA food safety practices.

Flexibility Strengthens Food Safety Practices

An important component of the LGMA is its ability to adapt and change food safety practices when new information or research is learned which could enhance existing food safety practices. It is important to remember that the LGMA food safety practices, are not set by the LGMA itself, but have been developed and are continually reviewed by a team of university and industry scientists, food safety experts and farmers, shippers and processors. The food safety practices are also reviewed by government agency personnel. Each year the food safety practices are reviewed to determine if changes are necessary. The LGMA Board must then vote to accept these practices before they can become the basis for the LGMA's inspection criteria.

This past year, several changes were made to the LGMA food safety practices. For example, one change came as a result of information learned in the aftermath of a 2006 leafy greens outbreak investigation conducted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Specifically, the change was designed to ensure that waste water from dairies or other animal operations does not come into contact with irrigation water used on leafy greens farms. The new measure was adopted and is now part of the LGMA food safety practices that are checked during each government audit conducted on a leafy greens field. This action to enhance the food safety practices provides a good example of the flexibility of the LGMA program and the efforts being conducted to prevent pathogens from entering fields.



YEAR IN REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Building a Comprehensive Database

The LGMA is currently the only program in the produce industry which requires mandatory government audits for what is virtually an entire commodity group. Membership in the LGMA continued in 2008/09 to represent over 99 percent of the leafy greens produced in the state of California.

This past year a database was developed to capture all of the information collected during the LGMA's audits of leafy greens fields. This database makes it much easier for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure it is meeting its objective to audit every handler-member of the LGMA at least four times per year and to audit every grower at least once.

The database contains other important information concerning the location of fields audited, which inspector conducted each audit and a complete rundown of the results from each audit checkpoint along with information on any corrective actions or citations issued. This information may prove useful in the future to determine trends with respect to food safety practices. For one thing, it may allow the industry to understand which practices are proving most difficult to achieve compliance so that efforts can be made to improve the compliance rate. Also, the system may be helpful in "calibrating" inspector performance to ensure uniformity among all auditors and audits.

The possibilities for utilizing information from this database are endless. To be sure, this is by far the most comprehensive set of information available on actual food safety practices being conducted in the field. No other commodity is able to provide this level of information and that alone may prove to be a very powerful and useful tool in reducing future food borne illness outbreaks.

Giving Credit Where Credit is Due



Before the establishment of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement in 2007 there was no mechanism available to the produce industry which allowed for mandatory government inspection of farms to verify food safety practices. Through the assistance of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who saw to it that his Administration supported and implemented this effort with the goal of protecting public health, the LGMA became the first food safety program of its kind.

Today the LGMA still represents an unprecedented commitment to food safety. Were it not for the leadership and support of Governor Schwarzenegger, the LGMA would not likely have been possible. For this, the LGMA decided to honor the Governor with its inaugural "Golden Checkmark Award." The award is dedicated to the support of mandatory government inspection of food safety systems within the produce industry. No one is a more fitting recipient of this award than Schwarzenegger. The Governor was presented with the LGMA's "Golden Checkmark" Award during a celebration of Ag Day, March 21, 2009 on the grounds of the California State Capitol.

Finding Consumer Confidence

The LGMA conducted a nationwide survey in spring of 2008 to determine how consumers view the food safety efforts by the industry. An impressive 89% of consumers had a favorable opinion when they were told about the food safety programs and mandatory government audits being implemented under the LGMA program. And, 70% of consumers said that after learning more about the LGMA food safety program their confidence in the overall safety of leafy green products increased.

YEAR IN REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Beyond the LGMA and 2009

Outside the efforts of the LGMA and its programs, other entities are working to accomplish the goals of the fresh produce industry and its commitment to protecting public health. One of the most important of these efforts is the Center for Produce Safety. This organization has been in existence since 2008 with a stated mission to provide ready-to-use, science-based solutions that prevent or minimize produce safety vulnerabilities. The goals of CPS are to facilitate new research, become a repository of global research and to provide communication, outreach and training for industry, research and regulatory communities. To date, CPS has eleven targeted research projects in progress and has committed to \$3 million in additional research spending. By pooling resources and establishing priorities, the Center for Produce Safety will play an important role in conducting research necessary to answer many questions concerning food safety practices and in directing the future of programs like the LGMA. The LGMA is committed to working with and alongside CPS and its partners.

The LGMA also prides itself in being a model for other commodity groups and geographic locations. A sister program has already been established to audit practices of leafy greens producers in the southwestern U.S. through the Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement. And, an effort was just beginning at the close of LGMA's 2008/09 fiscal year to move forward a National Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement to provide a food safety program for all leafy greens produced throughout the United States.

While this report covers only those activities conducted by the LGMA through March 2009, much has been done since then. The LGMA is making new strides in reaching out to the produce buying trade to provide them with greater understanding of the LGMA and its mandatory government audit program. Efforts are also underway to better support the industry itself with technical expertise and assistance for farmers and handlers. And, the industry is also reaching out to environmental groups who are concerned that we do not lose sight of the importance in protecting the environment as well as protecting public health. The LGMA is committed to continually advance and improve this model program so that consumers can enjoy safe, healthful and wholesome lettuce and spinach products every bite, every time.



AUDIT RESULTS

This report addresses LGMA audits conducted from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009. During this time, CDFA inspectors conducted 641 audits, all of which were reviewed by the LGMA. Audit results show that 52% of all farms inspected had either no citations or Minor Infractions (that were corrected on site while the inspectors were present). The remaining 48% of farms inspected required corrective action.

Another way of looking at the audit results is to examine compliance with all checkpoints reviewed by the government inspectors. The table below shows that there were 117,944 total audit checkpoints examined during the 641 audits conducted in 2008/2009. When looking at total checkpoints examined during these audits, LGMA members were in compliance with 99.09%. This means that while 48% of operations audited were found to have citations requiring corrective action, over 99% of the total audit checkpoints were found in compliance with the LGMA food safety practices.

LGMA Audit Results
April 2008 – March 2009

Audit Area	Checkpoints	Audits	Checkpoints Verified	% in Compliance
General Requirements	14	641	8974	99.58%
Environmental Assessments	35	641	22,435	99.73%
Water Use	24	641	15,384	98.40%
Soil Amendments	18	641	11,538	99.30%
Worker Practices & Field Observations	93	641	59,613	98.92%
Total	184	641	117,944	99.09%

AUDIT RESULTS

Two Year Comparison		
	July 2007 - March 2008 (8 months)	April 2008 - March 2009 (12 months)
Number of Audits	424	641
Number of Citations	585	1,068
Compliance Percentage	99.25%	99.09%
Citations:		
Flagrant Violation	5	1
Major Deviation	45	36
Minor Deviation	331	796
Minor Infraction	204	235
Definitions for each citation level are listed on page 8.		

PENALTIES AND COMPLIANCE

During the 641 audits conducted in 2008/09 by government inspectors, a total of 1,068 citations were issued. Over 96% of these were Minor Infractions or Minor Deviations with corrective action taken either immediately or within a few days of the citation being issued.

Below is a table which outlines the citations issued during the fiscal year inspection period. The table also details the penalties for citations and the corrective actions taken under the LGMA system.

LGMA Audit Citations April 2008 - March 2009

Type	#	%	Description	Penalty	Corrective Actions Taken
Flagrant Violation	1	0.1%	A violation where the preponderance of evidence shows that the member company knew, or should have known exercising reasonable diligence, that the practice did not conform to the measurable practices established in the LGMA, and the violation significantly increased the risk of delivering unsafe product into commerce.	Penalties can range from temporary to permanent decertification. Any action resulting in decertification will be publicized on the LGMA website. Per the request of the produce buyer, e-mails are also sent to alert the buyer to any decertification actions.	The LGMA decertified one company that was found to have Flagrant Violations through the Compliance Audit Process. The member was decertified for a period of six months (until the end of the fiscal year), and has since been re-audited and re-certified by the LGMA. Decertified member names are posted on the LGMA website for easy identification by buyers of leafy green products.
Major Deviation	36	3.4%	A violation of the LGMA practices that may inhibit the maintenance of food safety, but does not necessarily result in unsafe product.	A third Major Deviation within a 12-month period will result in elevation of the deviation to a Flagrant Violation.	Those cited were required to submit a Corrective Action Plan to the LGMA staff within 5 business days of notification. They were then subject to an on-site inspection within 3 business days. All completed corrective action as required.
Minor Deviation	796	74.5%	A deviation of the LGMA practices which can be addressed within (5) days of the inspection, and the deviation did not necessarily increase the risk of a food borne illness.	Upon multiple violations of the same type within a 12-month period, the violation may move up to a Major Deviation.	Those cited were required to submit a Corrective Action Plan to the LGMA staff within 5 business days of notification. All completed corrective action as required.
Minor Infraction	235	22.0%	An infraction from the LGMA practices which does not necessarily increase risk of a food borne illness, and the infraction can be corrected before the inspector leaves the premise.	Multiple Minor Infractions will lead to a Minor Deviation.	Those cited were able to perform Corrective Action on-site for the inspectors.

PENALTIES & COMPLIANCE (CONTINUED)

SPECIFICS ON FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS

One Flagrant Violation was assessed when an LGMA audit identified falsification of documents during the harvest. The company had also failed to correct minor issues cited from a previous audit. As a result of these violations, the company was decertified from the LGMA for a six-month period and was not eligible for recertification until a successful compliance audit was completed. The company has completed an LGMA audit and completed all required corrective actions to become recertified.

When decertified, a company cannot use the LGMA Service Mark. Buyers of leafy greens products for grocery stores and restaurants help enforce the program by only buying from certified LGMA member companies. Buyers can use the LGMA Service Mark, which is carried on sales documents and bills of lading, to quickly identify LGMA members in good standing. In addition, decertification results in the loss of markets in both Canada and Mexico which require that all imported product come from LGMA certified member companies. Decertified company names and actions are posted on the LGMA website so they can easily be identified by produce buyers.

SPECIFICS ON MAJOR DEVIATIONS

Of the 36 Major Deviations assessed in 2008/09, twelve were due to incorrect or incomplete required compliance plans and documentation. Some examples included failure to provide water tests at the time of the audit, incomplete Standard Operating Procedures and failure to provide the required compliance plan.

There were six environmental issues cited as Major Deviations, including two cases where there were signs of nearby animal encroachment (in both cases the harvest was stopped and buffered), two cases where excessive debris was identified near leafy greens fields, one case where unknown water was draining near the edge of a field (the field was buffered and the problem corrected), and one case where animal feces was found inside a field prior to harvest (the area was buffered and product from the affected area destroyed).

The seven citations issued for record-keeping included five cases of possible record falsification (in each case, the member company quickly acted to correct the problem and to re-assign or retrain the workers), one case where the field worker was reading and recording PH testing strips incorrectly and one case where water tests were being done on the wrong water source (immediately corrected by the grower).

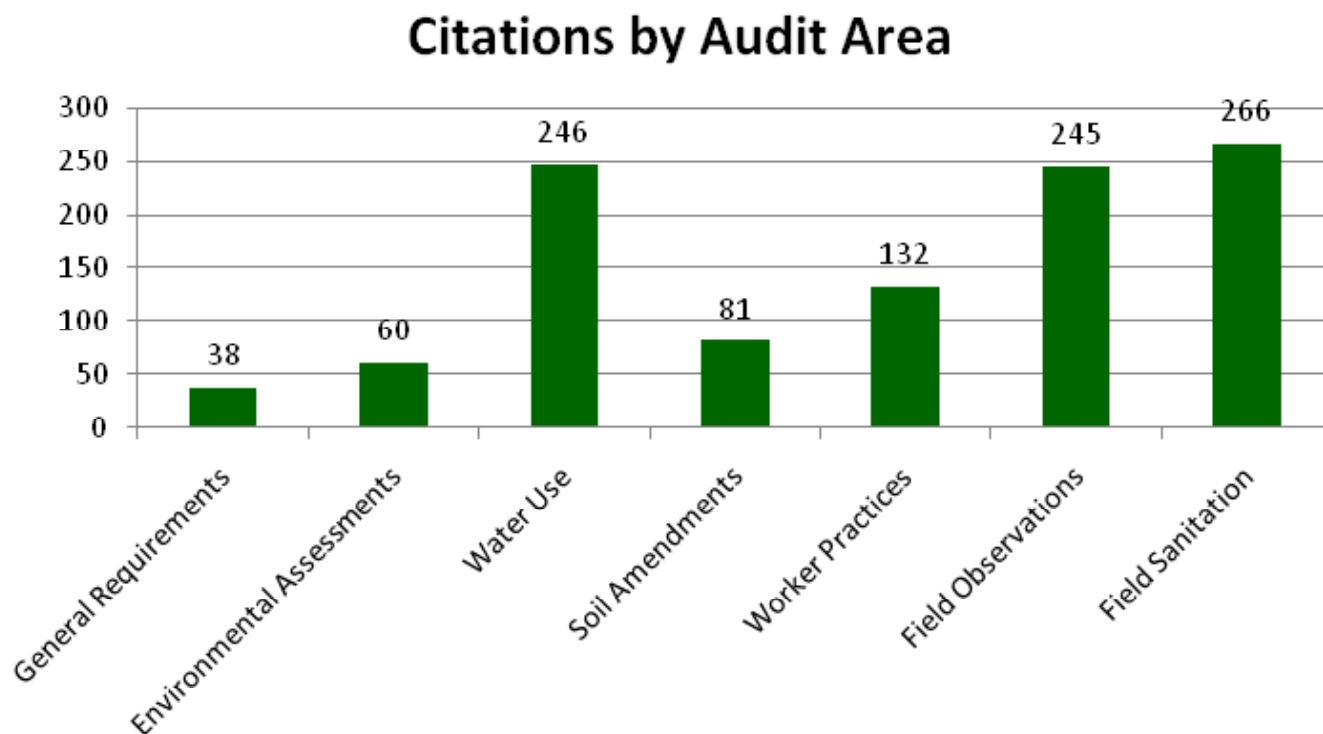
Worker activities were the cause of seven Major Deviations, including two cases of workers spitting into already harvested sections of fields, one case of a worker spitting into the unharvested part of a field (the area was buffered and not harvested), two cases of incorrect handling of harvest knives, one case where knife dip testing was not being done consistent with the company's Standard Operating Procedures, and one case of improper movement of harvest workers through unharvested portions of the field. In each of these cases, along with correcting immediate problems, the LGMA confirmed training or re-training of harvest crews by the member companies cited.

Four Major Deviations were assigned for issues related to sanitary units, including two for missing cleaning logs (later supplied), one for an unclean unit and one for a unit that was leaking hand washing water near a leafy greens field (corrected by the grower).

All companies corrected the problems and are now in compliance with the LGMA.

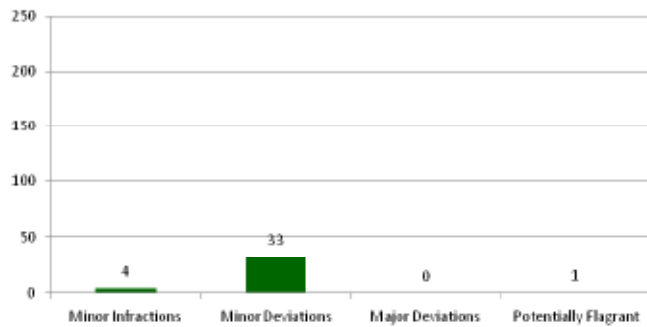
CITATION ANALYSIS

The following chart shows the breakdown of citations in 2008/09 by audit area. This chart clearly illustrates that no single risk area accounts for the majority of citations. Certain areas, like General Requirements and Soil Amendments, show very few citations. While other areas, Water Use and Field Sanitation, show higher citation occurrences. On page 11 the Citation Analysis is broken down further by showing citation levels occurring within each audit area.

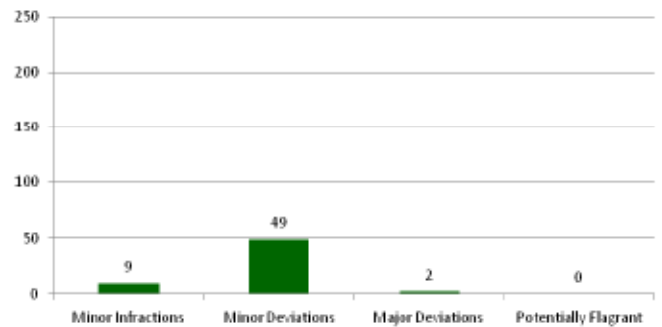


CITATION ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

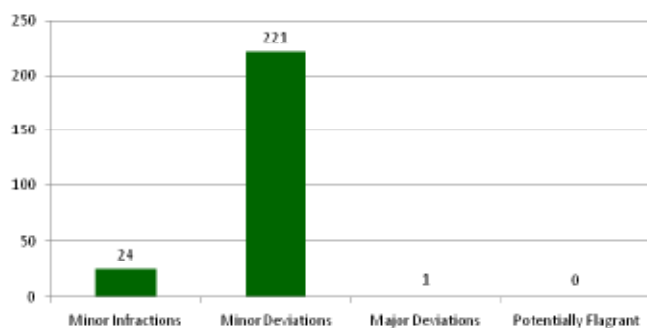
General Requirement Citations



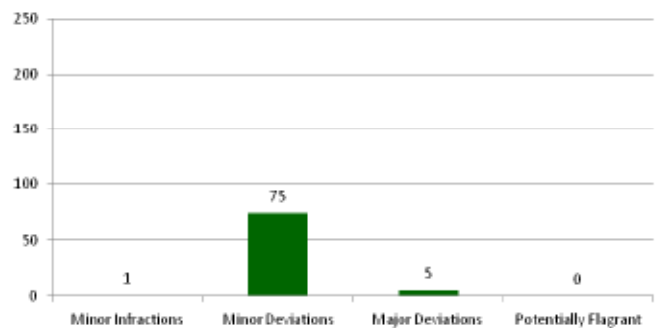
Environmental Assessment Citations



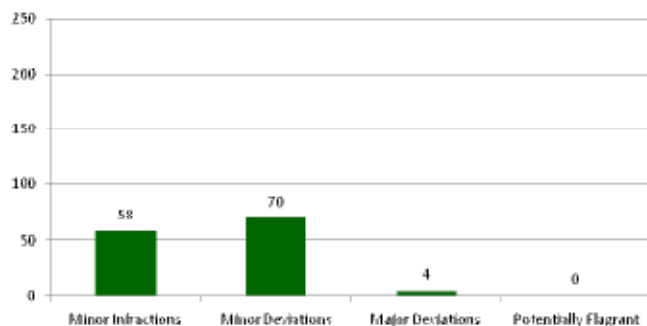
Water Use Citations



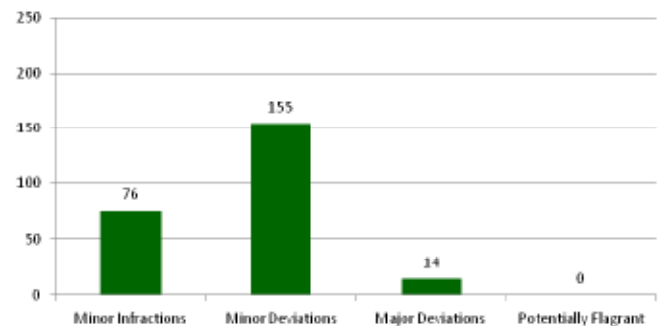
Soil Amendment Citations



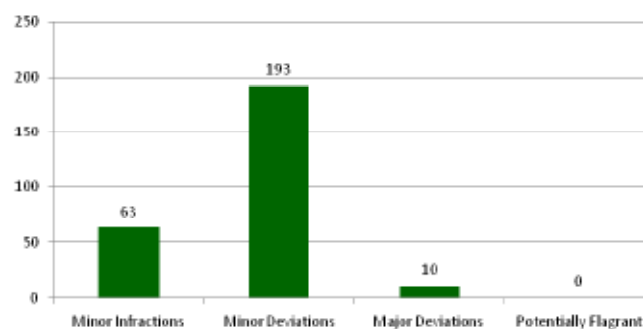
Worker Practice Citations



Field Observation Citations



Field Sanitation Citations



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The California Leafy Green Products Handlers Marketing Agreement is funded by its members with assessments paid according to volume handled. According to LGMA policy, the assessment is paid by the first handler, defined as follows:

The signatory handler whose name appears on the legal panel on packs as they move into commerce, or if the product is not packed under a signatory trade name, the signatory with the legal responsibility for the product as it moves into commerce is responsible for the assessment.

During the 2008/2009 fiscal year, the LGMA collected \$3,948,831 in assessments from its members. Following is the full breakdown in revenue and expenses for the fiscal year:

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

Revenue

Assessment Income	\$3,948,831
Late Fees	504
Interest Income	7,385
Total Revenue	3,956,720

Expenses

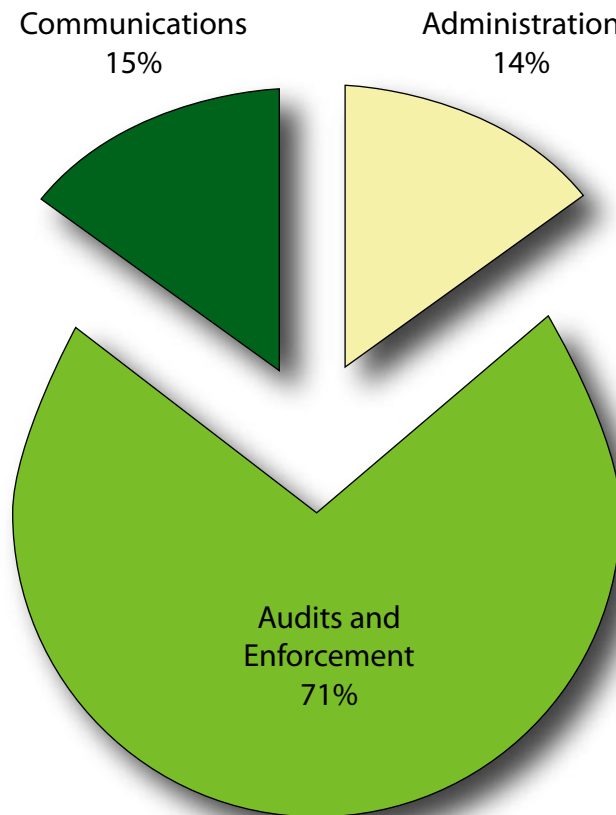
Program Services	
Communications	384,741
Compliance Audits	1,853,547
Administration	365,470
Total Expenses	2,603,758

Changes in Net Assets	1,352,962
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Net Assets at Beginning of Year	1,234,242
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Net Assets at end of year	\$2,587,204
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY: EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



Administration

- Salaries and benefits (staff)
- Travel (board and staff)
- Office expenses
- Meeting expenses

Audits and Enforcement

- Compliance Audits
- Compliance Officer
- Legal fees

Communications

- Trade Communications
- Public Relations
- Events
- Website

FINANCIAL REPORT: INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S SUMMARY

KEITH C. ROOD, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Independent Audit Report

To the Board of Directors
California Leafy Green Products Handler Marketing Agreement
1521 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of California Leafy Green Products Handler Marketing Agreement as of and for the year ended March 31, 2009, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Governmental Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, I express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of California Leafy Green Products Handler Marketing Agreement, as of March 31, 2009, and the changes in its financial position and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



Keith C. Rood
Certified Public Accountant

October 9, 2009

- 1 -

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APPENDIX

BOARD & STAFF

SALINAS • WATSONVILLE • SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY • KERN COUNTY

Members	Alternates
Tom Nunes - <i>The Nunes Company</i>	Tom Russell - <i>Pacific International Marketing</i>
Joe Pezzini, Chairman - <i>Ocean Mist Farms</i>	Phil Adrian - <i>Coastline/Sunridge Farms</i>
Jamie Strachan, Vice Chairman - <i>Growers Express LLC</i>	Tom Mack - <i>Dole</i>
Alec Leach - <i>Taylor Farms</i>	Bardin Bengard - <i>Bengard Ranch, Inc</i>
Ron Ratto - <i>Ratto Bros Inc.</i>	Will Daniels - <i>Earthbound Farm</i>
John D'Arrigo - <i>D'Arrigo Bros of California</i>	Dave Eldredge - <i>New Star Fresh Foods</i>
Steve Church - <i>Church Bros Produce</i>	Andrew Cumming - <i>Metz Fresh</i>

OXNARD • SANTA MARIA

Members	Alternates
Jan Berk - <i>San Miguel Produce</i>	Verlea Kellogg - <i>Fresh Express</i>
Ryan Talley, Treasurer - <i>Talley Farms</i>	John Jackson - <i>Beachside Produce</i>
Mitch Ardantz - <i>BoniPak</i>	Victor Tognazzini - <i>Gold Coast Packing, Inc</i>

BLYTHE • IMPERIAL VALLEY

Members	Alternates
Jack Vessey - <i>Vessey and Company</i>	Megan Chedwick - <i>Church Bros Produce</i>
Eric Wexler - <i>Talnimura and Antle</i>	Todd Brendlin - <i>Crystal Organic/Grimmway Farms</i>
Larry Cox - <i>Sunridge Farms, Inc</i>	Lorri Koster - <i>Mann Packing</i>

PUBLIC MEMBER

Member	Alternate
Barbara Matthews	Joe Canciamilla

STAFF

Scott Horsfall - *Chief Executive Officer*
April Ward - *Communications Director*
Mike Villaneva - *Technical Director*
Jonathan Field - *Compliance Officer*
Dennis Kihlstadius - *Trade Liaison*

LEAFY GREEN PRODUCTS



Arugula



Baby Leaf Lettuce



Butter Lettuce



Cabbage (Red, Green & Savoy)



Chard



Endive



Escarole



Green Leaf Lettuce



Iceberg Lettuce



Kale



Red Leaf Lettuce



Romaine Lettuce



Spinach



Spring Mix

TERMINOLOGY

General

CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
Food Safety Practices	Food Safety Practices (also known as metrics, good agricultural practices/GAPs and commodity specific guidelines) are a comprehensive set of science based practices developed, by industry experts and scientists, to reduce the risk of contamination on the farm through harvest.
Grower	Any person or company who produces leafy green products for commercial sale and who has a proprietary interest therein.
Handler	Any person or company who handles, processes, ships or distributes leafy green product for market whether as owner, agent, employee, broker or otherwise. This definition does not include a retailer
Leafy Green Products	Listed on page 18.
LGMA	California Leafy Green Products Handler Marketing Agreement
Service Mark	The U.S. registered mark obtained by CDFA and granted to the LGMA Board and further licensed to those Signatory Handlers who certify and verify that their leafy green products have been grown, packed, shipped, processed and/or handled in accordance with the food safety practices.
Signatory Handler	Also called members, a handler who has signed onto the marketing agreement, at which point all aspects of the program become mandatory.
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

Audits

Checklist	A tool that ties directly to the food safety practices and ensures inspectors are consistent and thorough in completing each and every LGMA audit.
Corrective Action Plan	A required plan outlining corrections for all audit findings.
Database	CDFA enters all audit information into an electronic database where members view audit results and provide the LGMA with corrective action plans.
Inspector	Also called auditors, these CDFA employees are USDA-licensed government agricultural inspectors.
Regular Audit	Audits verify that members are in compliance with the food safety practices. In order to be certified members are subject to 4 - 6 mandatory audits each year. Corrective action must be provided for all findings. Non-compliance will result in decertification from the program.
Unannounced Audit	Derived from the regular audit checklist, this observational audit is a USDA requirement and is conducted with no advance notice. Each member is subject to 1 unannounced audit each year, and required to provide corrective action for any findings.



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